A

LETTER

FROM

BARWICK

The Head Quarters of the

ARMY,

Under the Conduct of

GENERAL MONCK,

Commander in Chief of the *Parliaments Forces* in *England* and *Scotland*.

Shewing their Condition and Resolution; and the Necessity of the present Parliaments Restitution.

To a Merchant *in*

LONDON.

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A LETTER *of the* 20th *of* December, *from* Barwick, *the Head Quarters of the Army under the Conduct of General* Monck, *Commander in Chief*, &c.

SIR,

I Have received yours the 6th present, and we are glad to hear that you in the South begin to be awakened, and are now in action for the restoring this present Parliament, whereby our Liberties may be asserted, and the Peace of the Nation setled upon Foundations of Truth and Righteousness: And whereas you doubt lest we should vary from our first Resolutions and Declaration, as fearing Col. *Lambert*'s great Forces, I desire you to assure our Friends we are resolved through the blessing of God not to start one tittle, but with our lives, and al that is dear to us, stand firm in this righteous quarrel; and we doubt not but that the Lord will so direct us and our prudent

General *Monck*, to order our Affairs ſo that our Enemies ſhal have little advantage by their plots and delaies under pretence of further Treaties for a Compoſure; for we begin to ſee its only to ſtrengthen their Forces al over the Nation by Arming al ſuch giddy people (as themſelves) who are enemies to Magiſtracy and Miniſtry; for we hear that many Cart loads of Arms are gone out of the Tower, and ſent into ſeveral Countries to that end; and therfore we are providing for a March towards them, and our Artillary and other neceſſaries are all ſafe come to this place and *Anwick*. And whereas we underſtand that moſt men are for a free Parliament, it is our deſire that this preſent Parliament may meet and ſettle Affairs which are ſo diſtracted, and after they ſhal make Qualifications, that a Free Parliament be either called, or the old Members in 1648. reſtored, and new Writs be iſſued out for places vacant: But we cannot but wonder why the preſent Parliament ſhould lie under ſuch Contempt, when we conſider the great and good things they have done for theſe Nations: Had they not before their interruption in *April* 1653. ſubdued al their Enemies at home, reduced *Ireland*, conquered *Scotland*, mannaged a fierce and chargable War againſt the *Dutch*, *Dane*, and *Portingal*, and neer brought them on their knees? Were not our Councils then feared abroad as wel as our Forces ſucceſsful? Had they not made *England* the moſt flouriſhing Nation for Trade in *Europe*, and our Peo-

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ple honored and respected? Were not their Armies paid to a day, yea somtimes Musters beforehand, and their Navy the like? Ask those that travelled into Forraign parts, they must affirm it; ask the Soldiers, and they wil say so; ask the Seamen, and they cannot deny it: Were not al their Stores ful of al War-like provisions? several gallant Frigots built by them? Besides al this they had three or four hundred thousand pounds in ready money in several Receipts, as at the Custom-house, Excise-Office, Guild-Hall, &c. the Trade of the Nation flourishing. And in this condition, and much better was the Commonwealth, when they were forced out of the Government in 1653. by their own Army Officers; and therefore wel might our Brethren of the Army say in their Declaration of the 6th of May, when they invited them to return to the exercising of their Trusts, that the Lords special presence was with them, and that they were signally blessed in that work. But I desire you and all sober men through the Nation seriously to consider with what disadvantage they returned to the Government in *May* last 1659. and in what a distracted condition all things were left by those that had usurped the Government, that in six yeers time had not only wasted al the Commonwealths Stores, consumed their Treasure, but a Debt of above three millions and three hundred thousand pounds upon the Nation contracted, as the Committee appointed to examine the publick Debts made it appear; the Navy

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moſt part in the *Sound* and other parts, in vaſt Arrears; a diſhonorable Peace with the *Dutch* concluded, a groundleſs War made with *Spain*, whereby the good people have not only ſuffered many millions by loſſes and decay of Trade, but 1500. of their Ships taken or ſpoiled, beſides many thouſand Gallant Engliſh mens lives loſt in *Hiſpaniola*, *Jemeica*, and *Flanders*, &c. And ſuch hath been the plots of the Jeſuits in the Army (as it's feared) or the Ambitious Officers that when ever this Honorable Parliament were in a way of ſettling us, and the people began to ſee the benefit of a Common-wealth Goverment then were they perfidiouſly interrupted, which hath brought all theſe confuſions upon us, and made both themſelves and private Soldier odious at home, and the Nation a reproach and ſcorn to all Nations abroad: And had not the Parliament been ſo Traiterouſly interrupted in *October* laſt by thoſe nine Ambitious Officers they would have put us into ſuch a poſture, that the Common-wealth would have ſeen in a ſhort time the difference between their Councils and theſe overturners and Sate Mountebanks, who have uſurped the Government, deſtroy'd all Trade, and brought us into ſuch con[illegible] but; we hope the righteous God wil ſpee[illegible] make them ſee their wickedneſs, and cover [illegible] Faces with ſham[illegible] and they will be queſtion[illegible] for their Treaſons and Murders and woful deſolations they have brought upon theſe poor

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Northern Countries. But it grieves us to think when this Parliament shal be restored to sit again, at *Westminster* (as we are very confident they wil) what Additional discouragments they will meet with; for besides the three Millions and three hundred thousand pounds debt contracted in the Protectors time, with the War with *Spaine* contiuued, but the Army and Navy further in Arreres which must be speedily discharged, and their Navy repaired, and a summers Fleet provided, that what can be expected from them but vast Taxes to be speedily imposed and levied upon the people; the Lord in mercy give them wisdom and courage not to be danted at these great discouragments, & the people seriously to consider the condition of the Common-wealth, and blame those only that have brought the Parliament into this necessity. Sir, We are here very unanimous, our Forces consist of six thousand good old Foot Soldiers, & three thousand Horse, and we increase daily besides all our Garrisons supplied, and al our Men hearty and wel: So that we intend speedily to March with our Army, resolving no longer to be put off with delaies, for we are confident whatever conditions we should make with these people they will be as perfidious to us; as they were to the Parliament from whom they received their Commissions. Before I conclude, this I know from good hands That our neighbour Nations were never more Startled, nay Trembled, when they heard *England* had adheared to their former Councils, and

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that the Army had taken their Commissions from the present Parliament, and promised obedience to them. The Lord make up all our Breaches, compose all our Differences, and settle us in unity and love one towards another, and restore this present Parliament of the Commonwealth of *England*, that so our Laws and Liberties may be maintained, a Godly and Learned Ministry encouraged, our Trade recovered, that at last these Nations may be a habitation of Justice, and a Mountaine of Holiness to the Lord is the Prayer of

Barwick, the 30th of *December*, 1659.

SIR,

Your very Humble Servant,

J. M.